

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the reaction surface is substantially fixed in relation to the movement of the limbs.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the reaction surface is shaped in a manner generally complementary to the shape of those parts of each limb which cooperate with the reaction surface in the closed condition of the clip.

12. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein at least one of the first or second sections of the reaction surface and the first and second resilient arms have surface projections which enhance the grip of the clip on the body passageway when engaged.

13. (previously presented) The surgical clip according to Claim 12, wherein the surface projections are selected from the group consisting of rounded teeth, pointed teeth, nipping heads, or any combination thereof.

14. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein each limb is connected to the base portion of the clip via a curved portion of the limb defining a connection point to the base portion behind the reaction portion of the clip.

15. (previously presented) The surgical clip according to Claim 14, wherein a further curve is provided in the limb in the opposite direction to the said curved portion, whereby the free end of the limb is disposed forward of the base portion of the clip.

16. (previously presented) The surgical clip according to Claim 14, wherein an elongate portion is provided in each limb between the curves, whereby during closure a leverage effect is produced on the part of the limb which is in contact with the body passageway.

17. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the base portion of the clip is in the form of an open loop or generally U-shaped member having a closed end directed away from the limbs and an open end at which the limbs and the reaction portion are connected to the base portion.

18. (previously presented) The surgical clip according to Claim 17, wherein the reaction portion of the clip is provided in two halves, each half is connected to one side of the open end of the base portion via a neck region and which are complementarily juxtaposed to define the reaction surface of the clip.

19. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the base portion of the clip is provided with a weak region or point at which the base portion may be cut to remove the clip from the body passageway.

20. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the clip is integrally formed of a superelastic or pseudoelastic shape-memory material.

21. (currently amended) The surgical clip according to Claim [[23]] 24, wherein the clip is integrally formed of sheet nitinol metal (nickel-titanium alloy).

22. (previously presented) The surgical clip according to Claim 15, wherein an elongate portion is provided in each limb between the curves, whereby during closure a leverage effect is produced on the part of the limb which is in contact with the body passageway.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A surgical clip for occluding a compressible tube-like body passageway having a longitudinal axis, the surgical clip comprising:

- a) a generally planar base portion defining a first plane;
- b) a first resilient arm extending from the base portion and having a curved distal end portion defining a first contact surface and disposed in a second plane offset to a first side of the first plane;
- c) a second resilient arm extending from the base portion and having a curved distal end portion defining a second contact surface and disposed in a third plane offset to a second side of the first plane, whereby the first and second contact surfaces curve generally toward each other; and,
- d) a third contact surface defined by a ~~comprising a first section and a second section~~ extending from the base portion, the third contact surface being each section having an elongate a ~~generally horizontal~~ reaction surface and disposed in a fourth plane offset from the first plane and distinct from the second and third planes,

whereby the third contact surface is disposed generally between the first and second arms when the clip is viewed parallel to the first plane; and whereby the first and second arms can pivot independently of the third contact surface,

whereby the clip can receive the body passageway in an open condition between the third contact surface and the distal end portions of the first and second arms and the arms can close resiliently towards the third contact surface to a closed condition in which the base portion and the third contact surface oppose the distal end portions of the arms across the body passageway with the third contact surface contacting and compressing the body passageway from one side thereof and the first and second contact surfaces contacting and compressing the body passageway from the other side thereof;

the reaction surface and the arms being dimensioned and arranged so that, in said closed condition of the clip, substantially the entire transverse width of the occluded body passageway is in contact with the reaction surface;

whereby the offsetting of the planes is ~~first resilient arm and the second resilient arm are offset from the third contact surface such that, when contacting a body passageway comprising an elongated tube-like structure having a longitudinal axis in said closed condition of the clip, the first contact surface contacts the body passageway at a first longitudinal position on the body passageway, the second contact surface contacts the body passageway at a second longitudinal position and the third contact surface contacts the body passageway at a third longitudinal position, such that the body passageway is contacted at three longitudinally distinct locations by the first, second and third contact surfaces, the location of contact of the body passageway with the third contact surface being longitudinally between the location of contact with the first contact surface and the location of contact with the second contact surface, and, further, when the axis of the body passageway is orthogonal to the first plane then it is at a non-orthogonal angle to the fourth plane, and~~

whereby the co-operation of the first, second and third contact surfaces can compress the body passageway and substantially reduce the diameter of the body passageway so as to substantially prevent the flow of fluid through the passageway.